



# NEWS RELEASE

## VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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### VIRGINIA'S CORN AND SOYBEAN YIELDS AT RECORD HIGH

Virginia's corn for grain yield forecast is a record high 135 bushels per acre according to the Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service. If realized this would be the highest corn yield on record since 126 bushels per acre was recorded in 1996. This forecast was based on crop conditions as of September 1. Soybean yields are expected to average 34 bushels per acre which is equal to the previous record high yield harvested in 1996.

Corn production is expected to total 40.5 million bushels from an estimated 300,000 acres harvested for grain. This would be 85 percent above last year's production. Soybean production is projected to total 15.6 million bushels, 32 percent above last year's 11.9 million bushels. Soybean producers are expected to harvest 460,000 acres this fall.

Flue-cured tobacco yields are forecast at 2,400 pounds per acre and production is expected to total 40.8 million pounds from 17,000 acres, based on September 1 conditions. This would be 65 percent less than last year's production. Burley tobacco yields are forecast at 2,200 pounds per acre. This would bring total production to 19.8 million pounds from 9,000 acres. This compares with last year's average yield of 2,180 pounds per acre and a total production of 23.1 million pounds harvested from 10,600 acres. Fire tobacco yield forecast remains unchanged from the August forecast of 1,700 pounds per acre from 1,300 harvested acres. Production is forecast at 2.2 million pounds. Sun tobacco yield forecast also remains unchanged from the August forecast. Sun tobacco producers plan to harvest 100 acres yielding 1,700 pounds to the acre. This would make production 170,000 pounds.

The state's peanut yield is forecast at 3,000 pounds per acre. This is down 100 pounds per acre from the August forecast. Increased disease pressure and unseasonably cool, damp weather conditions have caused this reduction in yield. Production is expected to total 225 million pounds, which is up 3 percent from last year.

Cotton yield forecast remains unchanged from the August forecast of 722 pounds per acre. Production is expected to total 164 million pounds from 109,000 acres.

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U.S. **corn** production is forecast at 10.4 billion bushels, unchanged from the last forecast, but up 10 percent from 1999. Based on September 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 141.8 bushels per acre, down 0.1 bushel per acre from August, but up 8.0 bushels from a year ago. If realized, this would be the largest production and yield on record. Acreage for grain harvest is estimated at 73.1 million acres, unchanged from August.

Nationally, **soybean** production is forecast at a record high 2.90 billion bushels, down 3 percent from August 1, but 10 percent above 1999. Based on September 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 39.5 bushels per acre, down 1.2 bushels from last month, but 3.0 bushels above 1999. Acreage for harvest is estimated at a record 73.5 million acres, unchanged from last month, and up 1 percent from 1999.

U.S. **peanut** production is forecast at 3.75 billion pounds, down 1 percent from August 1 and 2 percent below last year's crop. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.47 million acres, unchanged from the August report, but up 2 percent from 1999. Yields are expected to average 2,561 pounds, 26 pounds below last month and down 106 pounds from 1999.

Nationally, **flue-cured** tobacco production is expected to total 597 million pounds, up 2 percent from last month but down 9 percent from 1999. Growers plan to harvest 253,900 acres in 2000, 16 percent below last year. Yield is expected to average 2,352 pounds per acre, 190 pounds higher than the previous year. **Burley** production is expected to total 412 million pounds, 3 percent above the August 1 forecast but 26 percent below a year ago. Yield is expected to average 2,048 pounds per acre, up 219 pounds from 1999. Burley growers plan to harvest 201,000 acres, 34 percent below a year ago. Kentucky's production, at 256 million pounds, is expected to be 33 percent below last year.

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